IN THE CLAIMS:

1. (currently amended) A pipe liner connector suitable for use with connected pipe sections having an internal liner, the pipe liner connector comprising a substantially cylindrical sleeve located inside the pipe sections having opposed open ends for sealed attachment to the internal liner of the connected pipe sections, and the substantially cylindrical sleeve defining one or more vents extending radially through the cylindrical sleeve to provide fluid communication, in use, ~~for balancing a pressure differential~~ between a micro-annulus, formed between the internal liner and the connected pipe sections, and a bore defined by the connected pipe sections, for balancing a pressure differential between the micro-annulus and the bore.

2. (original) A pipe liner connector as claimed in Claim 1 wherein the pipe liner connector further comprises a shielding ring located between the opposed open ends.

3. (previously presented) A pipe liner connector as claimed in Claim 2 wherein the shielding ring is heat resistant.

4. (previously presented) A pipe liner connector as claimed in Claim 1 wherein an open end comprises a diametrically increased ring section longitudinally displaced from the open end towards the opposed open end, said ring section having one or more venting grooves located on an outer surface thereof and extending longitudinally thereon.

5. (previously presented) A pipe liner connector as claimed in Claim 4 wherein the open end further comprises one or more seals located between the open end and the ring section and the open end having a diameter intermediate of the cylindrical sleeve and the ring section.

6. (previously presented) A pipe liner connector as claimed in Claim 5 wherein the one or more seals provide a liquid tight connection with an internal surface of the internal liner while the ring section engages with an internal surface of the pipe section.

7. (previously presented) A pipe liner connector as claimed in Claim 1 wherein an open end comprises one or more circumferential grooves suitable for receiving an adhesive and a second vent located between the one or more circumferential grooves and the open end.

8. (currently amended) A pipe liner connector assembly comprising: ~~for use with a~~ pipe sections having an internal liner, and

~~the~~ a pipe liner connector including ~~comprising~~ a substantially cylindrical sleeve having opposed first and second open ends,

wherein the first open end comprises a first diametrically increased ring section longitudinally displaced from the first open end towards the second open end, said first diametrically increased ring section having one or more venting grooves located on an outer surface thereof and extending longitudinally thereon for balancing a pressure differential between a micro-annulus formed between the internal liner and the pipe sections on a first side of the ring section and an annular section defined between the pipe liner connector and the pipe sections on a second, opposing side of the ring section by providing fluid communication therebetween.

9. (currently amended) A pipe liner connector assembly as claimed in Claim 8 wherein the first open end further comprises one or more seals located between the first open end and the first ring section and having a diameter intermediate of the cylindrical sleeve and the first ring section.

10. (currently amended) A pipe liner connector assembly as claimed in Claim 8 wherein the second open end further comprises a second diametrically increased ring section longitudinally displaced from the second open end towards the first open end, said second ring section having one or more venting grooves located on an outer surface thereof and extending longitudinally thereon.

11. (currently amended) A pipe liner connector assembly as claimed in Claim 10 wherein the second open end further comprises one or more seals located between the second open end and the second ring section and having a diameter intermediate of the cylindrical sleeve and the first ring section.

12. (currently amended) A pipe liner connector assembly as claimed in Claim 10 wherein the pipe liner connector further comprises a shielding ring located between the first and second ring sections.

13. (new) A pipe assembly comprising:

a pipe having first and second pipe sections defining respective axial bores;

an internal pipe liner comprising first and second liner sections located within the respective first and second pipe sections, wherein an end of the first pipe section substantially abuts an end of the second pipe section such that the bores are substantially aligned; and

a pipe liner connector located inside the pipe sections for connecting the first liner section to the second liner section, the pipe liner connector including a substantially cylindrical sleeve having opposed open ends for sealed attachment to the first and second internal liner sections of the connected pipe sections,

wherein a micro-annulus is formed between the internal pipe liner and the pipe, and

wherein the cylindrical sleeve defines one or more vents extending radially therethrough thereby providing fluid communication between the micro-annulus and the aligned bores to balance a pressure differential therebetween.

14. (new) A pipe assembly as claimed in Claim 13 wherein the cylindrical sleeve includes a diametrically increased ring section longitudinally displaced from each open end.

15. (new) A pipe assembly as claimed in Claim 14 wherein the increased ring sections have one or more venting grooves located on an outer surface thereof and extending longitudinally thereon.

16. (new) A pipe assembly as claimed in Claim 13 wherein each open end defines one or more circumferential grooves suitable for receiving an adhesive.

17. (new) A pipe assembly as claimed in Claim 16 wherein each open end defines a second vent located between the one or more circumferential grooves and the open end.

18. (new) A pipe assembly as claimed in Claim 13 wherein the pipe liner connector further comprises a shielding ring located radially inward and adjacent a substantially annular notch formed by the substantially abutting ends to facilitate welding the abutting ends together.

19. (new) A pipe assembly as claimed in Claim 18 wherein the shielding ring at least partially forms the substantially annular notch.